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**Headline: IIT-M, Helyxon develop remote monitoring device for COVID patients**

# IIT-M, Helyxon develop remote monitoring device for COVID patients

## Our Bureau, Mumbai

IIT Madras' Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC) and Helyxon, a healthcare start-up in IIT Madras Research Park announced deployment of remote patient monitoring solutions for COVID-19 that they have jointly developed.

The device is a first-of-its-kind in the market that does clinically accurate continuous monitoring of four critical parameters – temperature, oxygen saturation, respiratory rate and heart rate.

The device has already reached over 2,000 patients in public and private hospitals, and at homes, with another 5,000 devices in the pipeline. Production is being scaled up to meet the growing demand. Cost of the device ranges from Rs. 2,500 to 10,000 depending on the configuration and parameters.

The device is completely self-contained, portable, wireless and can be clipped on to patient's finger and data is streamed to a mobile phone or central monitoring system. The temperature is measured at the armpit and blood oxygen level, and other parameters at the finger itself. The de-

vice is reusable and has a lifetime of over a year. The devices can be used by the hospitals and doctors for patient management beyond COVID-19.

the accuracy and performance with reference to current standards. Specific to COVID, the reduction of close contact with patients by doctors and nurses,

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Describing the development process of the device, IIT Madras faculty and Head of Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre, Professor Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam said, "There are several attempts to reposition consumer type devices like wrist bands and wearables as medical devices. But doctors and hospitals are clear that they can only accept devices with accuracy on par with dedicated patient monitors since these are patient's vital physiological parameters. It was a big learning and a critical input for us".

The core technology was validated by a year-long multi-centric study at various Chennai-based medical institutions for

savings in PPE and monitoring equipment was found to be a significant advantage by hospitals. Based on the clinical inputs, the team engineered this device in response to demand for low cost, simple and easy to use devices for monitoring patients anywhere at hospital or home.

Vijai Shankar Raja, founder and MD of Helyxon said, "It is more than a monitoring device. Based on feedback from doctors and hospital management, deployment of OXY2 reduces overall load, stress and anxiety in the healthcare system, saves hospital beds for severe cases, and increases confidence for patients at home." ◆